

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing a BIOS generated display of strings in a computer, comprising:
 - providing a set of strings to be displayed by the BIOS;
 - providing a first escape code within a first string of the set, wherein the first escape code provides an indication of at least a portion of the first string that is to be displayed in a first format;
 - when displaying the first string of the set, encountering and interpreting the first escape code by a display engine of the BIOS to determine the first format and generate the display of the first string with the portion of the first string displayed in the first format.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a cancel escape code within the first string and wherein the portion of the first string between the first escape code and the cancel escape code is displayed in the first format.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a second escape code within the first string of the set, wherein the second escape code provides an indication of at least a portion of the first string that is to be displayed in a second format, and wherein the portion of the first string between the first escape code and the second escape code is displayed in the first format and wherein the portion of the first string after the second escape code is displayed in the second format.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a third escape code within a second string of the set, wherein the third escape code provides an indication of at least a portion of the second string that is to be displayed in a third format.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first format is a bold typeface.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising displaying the portion of the first string in the bold typeface by shifting a copy of each character pixel row data by one pixel position and performing a logical OR on each character row data with the shifted copy to control pixels that produce the display of each character of the portion.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first format is an underlined typeface, the method further comprising displaying the portion of the first string in the underlined typeface by controlling each bottom row pixel of each character of the portion.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first format is a first text color and a first background color.

9. A method of providing a BIOS generated display of strings in a computer, comprising:
 - providing a set of strings to be displayed by the BIOS during BIOS activity;
 - generating a display of a first string with a display engine of the BIOS, wherein at least a portion of the first string is displayed with a bold typeface.
10. The method of claim 9, further comprising providing a first escape code within the strings of the set, and wherein generating a display comprises encountering the first escape code to trigger the generation of the bold typeface.
11. The method of claim 9, wherein the bold typeface is generated by shifting a copy of each character row pixel data by one pixel position and performing a logical OR on each character row pixel data with the shifted copy to control pixels that produce the display of each character of the portion.

12. A method of providing a BIOS generated display of strings in a computer, comprising:
 - providing a set of strings to be displayed by the BIOS during BIOS activity;
 - generating a display of a first string with a display engine of the BIOS, wherein at least a portion of the first string is displayed with an underlined typeface.
13. The method of claim 12, further comprising providing a first escape code within the strings of the set, and wherein generating a display comprises encountering the first escape code to trigger the generation of the underlined typeface for the portion of the string following the escape code.
14. The method of claim 12, wherein the underlined typeface is generated by controlling each pixel of a low row of each character of the at least a portion of the first string.

15. A computer system for providing a BIOS generated display of strings in a computer, comprising:
 - a display device;
 - a processor; and
 - a BIOS that stores a set of strings, wherein a first escape code is provided within a first string of the set, wherein the first escape code provides an indication of at least a portion of the first string that is to be displayed in a first format by the BIOS when executed by the processor, and wherein the BIOS when executed by the processor encounters and interprets the first escape code to determine the first format and generates the display of the first string on the display device with the portion of the first string displayed in the first format.
16. The computer system of claim 15, further comprising providing a cancel escape code within the first string and wherein the portion of the first string between the first escape code and the cancel escape code is displayed in the first format.
17. The computer system of claim 15, wherein a second escape code is provided within the first string of the set, wherein the second escape code provides an indication of at least a portion of the first string that is to be displayed in a second format, and wherein the portion of the first string between the first escape code and the second escape code is displayed in the first format and the portion of the first string after the second escape code is displayed in the second format.
18. The computer system of claim 15, further comprising providing a third escape code within a second string of the set, wherein the third escape code provides an indication of at least a portion of the second string that is to be displayed in a third format.
19. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the first format is a bold typeface.

20. The computer system of claim 19, wherein the BIOS generates the display of the portion of the first string in the bold typeface by shifting a copy of each character pixel row data by one pixel position and performing a logical OR on each character pixel row data with the shifted copy to control pixels that produce the display of each character of the portion.
21. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the first format is an underlined typeface and wherein the BIOS generates the display of the portion of the first string in the underlined typeface by controlling each bottom row pixel of each character of the portion.
22. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the first format is a first text color and a first background color.